



**Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Minutes
Thursday, March 1, 2018**

Offices of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
Lake County Conference Room
Suite 800, 233 S. Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois

- Members Present:** Ed Collins – McHenry County Conservation District, Keary Cragan (via phone) – U.S. EPA, Jack Darin – Illinois Sierra Club, Deb Stone – Cook County Department of Environmental Control, Jackie Forbes (via phone) – Kane County Division of Transportation, Danielle Gallet – Metropolitan Planning Council, David Leopold – UI Labs, Mike Prusilla – Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, Sean Wiedel – Chicago Department of Transportation, Nancy Williamson – IDNR, Moira Zellner – University of Illinois-Chicago
- Members Absent:** Martha Dooley – Village of Schaumburg, Stacy Meyers – Openlands, Joe Schuessler – MWRD, Mike Sullivan – IDOT, Kim Wasserman-Nieto – Little Village Environmental Justice Organization
- Staff Present:** Nora Beck, Brian Daly, Kate Evasic, Kristin Ihnchak, Jared Patton, Elizabeth Schuh, Jason Navota
- Others Present:** Jon Riley – University of Michigan Planning Student

1.0 Call to Order

Jack Darin called the meeting to order at approximately 9:35 a.m.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

The order of the presentations was updated to address the draft land use chapter first.

3.0 Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 1 meeting was made by Sean Wiedel, seconded by Ed Collins. The motion carried with all in favor.

Ed Collins re-iterated the request to be given the draft chapters in Word format to allow for easier commenting. Staff responded that this can be accomplished and will look into the best distribution format. Ed also asked the status of including the Chicago Wilderness Regional Oak Mapping in the Natural Resource Snapshot. Staff will follow up.

4.0 ON TO 2050 Draft Land Use Chapter – Elizabeth Schuh, CMAP staff

Staff have developed an initial draft of the major recommendations of the ON TO 2050 chapter addressing land use. As summarized in this [memo](#), staff will review the recommendations, underlying strategies, and selected action steps to achieve those recommendations. Committee members asked a number of clarifying questions and had the following comments:

- **Comment process:** The Draft Land Use Chapter will be available for review in the coming weeks. CMAP staff will provide a link to that version for the committee. In the meantime, please provide comments on the memo.
- **Automatic vehicles and curb space:** This limited resource could be capitalized to fund infrastructure improvements.
- **Environmental recommendations to municipalities:** Several committee members perceive that most municipal decision-makers viewing the plan will be drawn to the Land Use chapter and expressed concern that specific environmental recommendations, identified in the Environment chapter, were not being showcased. The Land Use chapter does include the Target preservation and stewardship efforts to key conservation and agricultural areas recommendation, but this doesn't address environment-related strategies for infill and reinvestment areas, and specifically doesn't address disinvested areas. Making these connections in the Land Use chapter will help connect the dots.
- **Include environment in the land use introduction:** Committee members identified locations in the introduction to broaden out the conversation about assets and how they are integral to communities.
- **Diagram showing connections between chapters.** Larger comment about plan construction and about how to showcase the content to different audiences across chapters.
- **Avoid constructions that pit environment goals against other goals.** Committee members encouraged the introduction and related strategies to recognize the benefits and opportunities of implementing environmental strategies. Recognize, maintain, and enhance co-benefits.
- **Recognize that environmental strategies could identify new revenues.** Deploying conservation and efficiency strategies, transfer of benefits programs, and user fees could create new markets and revenues to help address declines in other areas.

5.0 ON TO 2050 Draft Environment Chapter – Kristin Ihnchak, Nora Beck, and Jason Navota, CMAP staff

Staff have developed an initial draft of the major recommendations of the ON TO 2050 chapter addressing the environment. As summarized in this [memo](#), staff will review the recommendations, underlying strategies, and selected action steps to achieve those recommendations. Committee members asked a number of clarifying questions and had the following comments:

- **Missing recommendation areas:** Committee members noticed that air quality, brownfield and other urban contamination, environmental justice, public health, and energy are not immediately apparent from the current 5 recommendation areas. Discussed the changes that have occurred in the energy sector since GO TO 2040 and how much of that needs to be updated. Noted that energy could also be

addressed in an economy focused chapter. Health connections will be added as part of a broader effort to incorporate those issues across all 2050 draft chapters.

- **Presentation order:** Committee members discussed changing the order of the recommendations to address the larger scale issues first. However, determining the larger scale issues can be difficult. The draft currently starts with climate resilience, which helps to refer the reader to climate change in later recommendations. Given the web format, the order of the recommendations may become less important given multiple options for navigation.
- **Change name of water supply recommendation:** Use “coordinate” instead of “manage.”
- **Introduction:** Committee members encouraged staff to rethink the tone set in the introduction to be more powerful and inspiring. It is currently too tentative and not about the unique and important assets the strategies are designed to protect and maintain. Committee members encouraged the same message for the land use chapter, that it should avoid constructions that inspire competition between goals and rather the combined benefits. The introduction needs to express how critical the strategies are to the functionality of human settlements and cannot be esoteric. The Committee also noted that the introduction should make very strong links of environmental issues with other topics, such as land use, transportation, tax policy, and economic development, which are seen as more urgent or important to some stakeholders.
- **Plan for Climate Resilience recommendation:** Committee members made a number of comments on the strategies in this section:
 - **Incorporate climate resilience and adaptation measures into planning and development.** The energy related action step is too weak and minor and this topic deserves more attention.
 - **Increase community greening efforts.** Need to recognize the climate impacts of our existing green community features and how we need to increase species diversity to respond to changing conditions
 - **Strengthen transportation infrastructure to withstand climate change.**
 - Ideological decision: this strategy is focused on hardening and other strategies are more about flexibility. Encouraged staff to review this and how to explain this blended approach.
 - Instead of strengthening and withstanding, better word choices might help describe a blended approach. Other reframing suggestions include designing, responsive, absorbing, etc.
 - Noted that transportation infrastructure will not be the only infrastructure that should adapt to climate conditions. For example, water infrastructure, with freeze events and flooding of treatment plants.
 - Noted how critical updating IDOT standards will be to achieving these goals and how participation from USDOT may be beneficial.
 - Improve the operational response to weather events to ensure mobility
 - Provide data and resources to build climate literacy and facilitate informed decisions
 - Explore a platform for coordinating regional climate resilience initiatives

- Recommendation to combine these last two strategies into one effort, as a regional platform will help with providing data and facilitating informed decisions.

Due to time constraints, the committee had to move on to the last agenda item. Committee members were encouraged to submit comments on the memo as soon as possible to help improve the draft. Staff were appreciative of the contributions made already!

6.0 ON TO 2050 Environment Indicator Targets – Brian Daly, CMAP

The ON TO 2050 indicators provide performance measures to benchmark our progress on plan implementation. As summarized in this [memo](#), staff will present a set of proposed 2050 and 2025 targets for the ON TO 2050 environment indicators. Committee members asked a number of clarifying questions and made the following comments:

- **Acres of impervious area.** Committee members encouraged staff to rethink the way the indicator targets were presented so that it reflects the goal of declining rate of impervious. Staff will look into whether displaying the impervious amounts per capita, or targeting the rate of growth of imperviousness rather than total acreage of imperviousness, could help address this. Committee members did not disagree with the targets set.
- **Percent of the region in sensitive and impacted watershed catchments.** Committee members expressed general confusion over the construction of this indicator. Through conversation, it was concluded that the indicator should be changed to track the “Percent of regional land in watersheds with less than 25% imperviousness”. It was felt that this would translate the main point in a clearer way. Committee members did not disagree with the targets set. Also, need to define the catchment size by providing an average or a range of acres.
- **Acres of conserved land.** Committee members did not disagree with the targets set.
- **Percentage of population with adequate access to parks.** Committee members did not disagree with the targets set and they appreciated the inclusion of the inclusive growth perspective.
- **Percentage of regional greenways and trails plan completed.** Committee members did not disagree with the targets set.
- **Acres of farmland used to harvest food for direct human consumption.** Committee members had questions about the construction of this indicator. Staff should include information from the USDA Census if there is a minimum farm size in the reported data. Livestock information is not included. Committee members did not disagree with the targets set.
- **Public supply water demand.** This indicator is pending data for target setting, however, committee members had questions about the construction, noting that even if per capita consumption is going down, that doesn’t mean there isn’t a water supply problem. Discussion about the data limitations in identify the amount of water supply available for the region. There may be a chance to show estimates of water supply as a range on the total water use portion of the indicator. In addition, the kindred indicator on Lake Michigan allocation usage may also be able to show the amount of allocation, also likely as a range given that it is a 40-year average.
- **Greenhouse gas emissions.** This indicator is pending data for target setting.

- **Adding additional indicators.** Committee members asked if it was possible to add additional indicators. Staff responded that that was not possible at this time. Committee members expressed concern that there were no air quality indicators or other indicators that are addressing the recommendation gaps that were identified in the earlier agenda item.
- **Acknowledging data gaps.** Committee members recognized that there are a lot of other, perhaps more important indicators that could be tracked but cannot be at this time due to data gaps and the frequency or uncertainty of future data releases. Committee members encouraged staff to call these out as important areas for improvement, in the environment chapter but also in the discussion of environmental indicators. Discussed how this is likely an issue for other plan chapters and it could be a recommendation that helps inspire participation from the private and academic sectors.

Due to time constraints, many committee members had to leave before the presentation on indicator targets was complete. Committee members were encouraged to submit comments on the indicator memo as soon as possible to help improve the target setting process.

7.0 Other Business.

None.

8.0 Public Comment

None.

9.0 Next Meeting

The next ENR Committee is scheduled for Thursday, April 5, 2018.

10.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nora Beck (ENR Committee Liaison)
March 1, 2018